

JAMES DE BERTY TRUDEAU: ARTIST,
SOLDIER, PHYSICIAN*

Examples of His Work

ARCHIBALD MALLOCH

Miss Mary Hall Sayre, daughter of a founder of the Academy, the celebrated orthopedic surgeon, Lewis Albert Sayre (1820-1900), and sister of Dr. Reginald Hall Sayre (1859-1929), has recently made some important gifts to The New York Academy of Medicine. By far the most interesting of these are eight small plaster busts ranging from seven to fourteen inches in height, most of them in caricature, and three bas-reliefs in bronze, about seven inches in diameter. All of them are of New York doctors who flourished seventy or eighty years ago. These figures are well remembered by patients who consulted Dr. Sayre or his son. They are now discolored; the prominence of foreheads and other parts of the statuettes are darkened with dust and age, while the hollows and deeper lines are light. Hence they are a little like negative pictures, and the difficulty of making good photographs is obvious. The statuettes are all signed "Trudeau" except two, but these are undoubtedly by him also.

Now who was "Trudeau"? Miss Sayre tells us he was the father of Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau (1848-1915), and adds that she thought there was a reference in the latter's *Autobiography* (Philadelphia and New York, 1916) to these figures. The following passages are taken from pages 8-10 of that book:

I have a markedly medical ancestry. My father, Dr. James Trudeau, was a member of a well-known New Orleans family, and my mother's father, Dr.

* Read before the Charaka Club, February 18, 1931. Also, in briefer form, American Association of the History of Medicine, Ninth Annual Meeting, Washington, D. C., May 8, 1933.
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François Eloi Berger, was a French physician whose ancestors were physicians for many generations, as far back as they could be traced. . . . I can remember little about my father. I know that during the great Civil War he was an officer in the Southern Army, and for a time had charge of Island No. 10; and that he was wounded and brought back to New Orleans, where he partly recovered and practised his profession for a few years before his death. Before the war he married a Miss Marie Bringier, who belonged to a well-known New Orleans family, and who survived him, dying in Baltimore in 1909.

After her death, Miss Félicie Bringier, her sister, sent me a large oil painting of my father in Indian hunting costume, which she said was painted in the early Forties by John J. Audubon. The distinguished naturalist was a great friend of my father's, who accompanied him on many of his scientific expeditions, and went with him on the Fremont expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1841. Miss Bringier states in her letters to me that my father often helped Audubon with the anatomy of his ornithology work, and drew illustrations of birds and eggs for him.

My father not only drew and painted well, but he had a marked talent for modelling in clay and making bas-reliefs, and I have in my possession some of his work cast in bronze. I remember my grandfather, Dr. Berger, often saying that my father's talent for caricature had done him an immeasurable amount of harm professionally in New York, for he made a set of statuette caricatures of the medical faculty, which were so well done and such telling caricatures that many of the gentlemen never forgave him.

The love of wild nature and of hunting was a real passion with my father—a passion which ruined his professional career in New Orleans, for he was constantly absent on hunting expeditions. As mentioned in Miss Bringier's letters, in 1841 he spent over two years with the Osage Indians, who presented him with the buckskin suit in which he was arrayed when Audubon on his return painted the portrait which is now in my possession. This could not have helped him retain his practice.

Fortunately this account may be supplemented by information given in the *Times-Democrat*, New Orleans, for August 21 and 28, 1892, in articles (xxvii and xxviii) on "Louisiana Families" written by Charles Patton Dimitry.* He says that for quite six generations the Trudeau family was "of approved merit to the Colony and State" of Louisiana. The old way of spelling the name of Trudo (Latin "I thrust"), and battering-rams appear on the Trudeau coat-

* I wish to thank Mr. Robert J. Usher, Librarian of the Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans, for a résumé and photostats of these. In one of these articles a drawing of a medallion of James Trudeau's brother Zénon is reproduced.



FIG. 1

JAMES DE BERTY TRUDEAU

Painting by Audubon (John Woodhouse Audubon?)

of-arms. Many in past generations signed themselves Trudeau de Longueil. The first of the family to come down to Louisiana from Canada was Jean Trudeau. This was in the time of Bienville (1680-1768), and under both the French and Spanish domination, Jean Trudeau was Interpreter General and Indian Agent for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians.

Dimitry writes that James Trudeau was born September 14, 1817, not stating where, but probably it was in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, where his father lived. He was sent to France to be educated at the College of Louis-le-Grand, but on account of an illness, he went to a military school in Switzerland. Later he began the study of medicine in Paris, that is, before 1835, when he returned to study at Philadelphia under Dr. Joseph Pancoast (1805-82). At the end of a *Catalogue of the Medical Graduates of the University of Pennsylvania; with an Historical Sketch of the Origin, Progress, and Present State of the Medical Department*, Philadelphia, 1836, is an "Additional Catalogue" of a few pages, dated "May, 1837." This lists "Trudeau, James, Louisiana" as having received the degree of Doctor of Medicine "at the Commencement in March, 1837." The subject of his essay was Apoplexy. He came to practice in New York, and married Miss Cephise Berger, daughter of the French doctor, François Eloi Berger. Edward Livingston Trudeau was born in 1848, the third of the family.

Figure 1 is from a photograph of the painting in Indian costume of James Trudeau "by Audubon"; it will be remembered that Edward Livingston Trudeau speaks of their expeditions together as naturalists. The portrait is now at Saranac Lake. Mr. Stanley Arthur, an authority on Audubon, has proved that the painting is not by John James Audubon, but by John Woodhouse Audubon, the younger son of the naturalist, painted in 1841, two years before the Missouri River exploration trip. J. J. Audubon writes to his elder son Victor, February 11, 1841:

John is now to paint the Portraits of old Mr. and Mrs. White. He has painted a good picture of Mrs. Gay's husband, and one of Trudeau in

Indian Dress, as well as his "old Dad" sitting in the Wilds of America admiring the Nature around him, with a *Dog Companion*, lying at "his" feet. I think you will be pleased with these.*

Mr. Arthur states that Audubon, in 1838, named a species of tern, secured by Trudeau at Great Egg Harbor, N. J., *Sterna trudeaui*, and it is now called "Trudeau's Tern." Also, Mr. Arthur has not confirmed the statement that Trudeau made a number of bird portraits for Audubon, although "the doctor was an ardent collector."

Trudeau is on the "List of Founders" [of the New York Academy of Medicine, (1847)], a manuscript written by Dr. S. S. Purple, a true benefactor of the Academy. It was while he was in New York that Trudeau did the statuettes and bas-reliefs or medallions. Figure 2 is a reproduction of a bas-relief Trudeau executed of himself inscribed "J. DE. BERTY. TRUDEAU. MED. ET. SCIENT. DOCTOR. NOV. EBORAC. A.D. 1849." The other, figure 3, is now in the possession of his grandson, Dr. F. B. Trudeau, at Saranac Lake.* We have at the Academy the catalogue of *The Entire Professional Library of Dr. James Trudeau . . . also a Fine Assortment of Medical Instruments, &c.*; this collection was sold at auction by John Keese on March 8, 1852. One is struck with the proportion of French books in the list, and, in view of what we shall write later on, it is of interest that Trudeau had a copy of *Woman and Her Diseases* [the first edition was published in 1846] by Edward H. Dixon. Trudeau evidently stayed in New York and did without his books until at least 1858, for one statuette bears that date. Edward Livingston Trudeau writes of his father (*Autobiography*, pp. 8-9) :

He returned to New Orleans with my sister, and when three years old I went abroad with my mother, my brother and grandparents. . . . While we were abroad my mother obtained a divorce, and married a French officer, a Captain F. E. Chuffart.

* This letter, which the writer is permitted to quote, was furnished to Mr. Arthur by Mr. Victor Morris Tyler, New Haven, a grandson of Victor Audubon.

* I am indebted to Dr. Trudeau for permission to publish photographs of this and other bas-reliefs, bronze statuettes, and the Audubon painting of Trudeau.

We can scarcely believe that he left New York because his statuettes made him unpopular, as has been said, but we find that in 1860 James Trudeau "of New Orleans" wrote an article "On Granulations of the Lining Membrane of the Uterine Cavity" which was published in *The New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, 1860, XVII, 51-55, and therefore he must have been settled in the South again by that time.

In 1861 Dr. James Trudeau was General commanding the Louisiana Legion at New Orleans, and at the outbreak of the Civil War he wrote a treatise, *Considérations sur la défense de l'état de la Louisiane, et sur l'organisation de ses milices*, Nouvelle-Orleans, 1861, a paper-covered book of eighty-two pages (see figure 7).** He was Brigadier General of artillery with the Confederate Army, and was severely wounded at the battle of Shiloh, and arranged the defenses of Island No. 10. He fought at Madrid Bend, and was taken prisoner in October, 1864.† According to Mr. Dimitry, Trudeau married Miss *Louise* (not Marie) Bringier in 1863. Dr. Trudeau wrote many articles in the early numbers of the short-lived *Medical Review according to the Dosimetric Method of Dr. Ad. Burggraefe*, New Orleans 1882-84, Vols. I—III, of which he was the chief editor, "the matter relating to the Veterinary Sciences being under the supervision of Dr. J. Morice, Veterinary Surgeon." This periodical is in the Army Medical Library. Apparently he continued to live on in New Orleans and died there May 25, 1887.

In looking up about Trudeau's first wife it seemed possible that her father, Dr. François Eloi Berger, might have published some medical papers. It was found that a "Franc. Berger, de New-Yorck, (Etats-Unis)" wrote a "Disserta-

** I am indebted to Mr. Robert J. Usher, Librarian of the Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans, for a photostat of this.

† See *War of the Rebellion, a Compilation of the Official Records*, in which all references to Trudeau may be found in the general index volume. In Series 1, Vol. VII, there are letters from Maj.-Gen. Leonidas Polk praising Trudeau, and in Vol. LII of the same series, are several good letters from Trudeau to Polk.



FIG. 2

James de BertY Trudeau
Bronze bas-relief Trudeau executed
of himself.



FIG. 3

James de BertY Trudeau
Bronze bas-relief Trudeau executed
of himself.



FIG. 4

Dr. François Eloï Berger
Bronze bas-relief by Trudeau



FIG. 5

Dr. François Eloï Berger
Bronze bust by Trudeau



FIG. 6

Valentine Mott
Plaster statuette by Trudeau

tion sur L'ophthalmie," *Thèses de Paris*, 1812, no. 172, 18 pp. There can be little doubt but that this Berger was Dr. James Trudeau's father-in-law. The dedication is to "Archibald Bruce, Professor de Minéralogie à l'Université de New-York" and to "F. J. Double, Docteur en Médecine." Fortunately a bronze bas-relief, done in 1849, and a bronze bust (seven and one-half inches high), done in 1851 (figures 4 and 5) are in the possession of his great grandson, Dr. Francis B. Trudeau, at Saranac Lake, New York in the Trudeau Collection. Berger's name appears in the list of founders of the New York Academy of Medicine, 1847. In 1860 he was made a Non-Resident Fellow of the Academy, probably after he had gone back to France with his daughter, Mrs. Trudeau. Berger returned to New York, and died there in the seventy-seventh year of his age, in 1866 or 1867, and Mr. J. Lawrence Aspinwall, grandson of Berger's sister-in-law, kindly tells me he was buried in the Aspinwall family vault at Oak Hill Cemetery, Nyack, New York.

Trudeau's caricature (figure 6) of the famous surgeon Valentine Mott (1785-1865), a founder of the Academy of Medicine, and its president in 1849 and 1857, marked "J. Trudeau 184—" (the last figure cannot be read) must have been a very good one, for Dr. Lewis Albert Sayre used to tell his daughter that Mott held his hands and arms in that way when talking or lecturing. The right forearm and hand are now gone, but after Dr. Sayre's evidence we can be sure that Mott was not playing at "Diabolo" as was facetiously suggested for the "Venus de Milo"! Mott was born at Glen Cove, Oyster Bay, Long Island. After obtaining his M.D. in New York, he studied under Sir Astley Cooper in London, who later said of his pupil: "He has performed more of the great operations than any man living." Mott was Professor of Surgery in Columbia College, Rutgers Medical College, New York, and in the medical department of New York University. His books which had formed "The Valentine Mott Memorial Library" came to the New York Academy of Medicine in 1909.

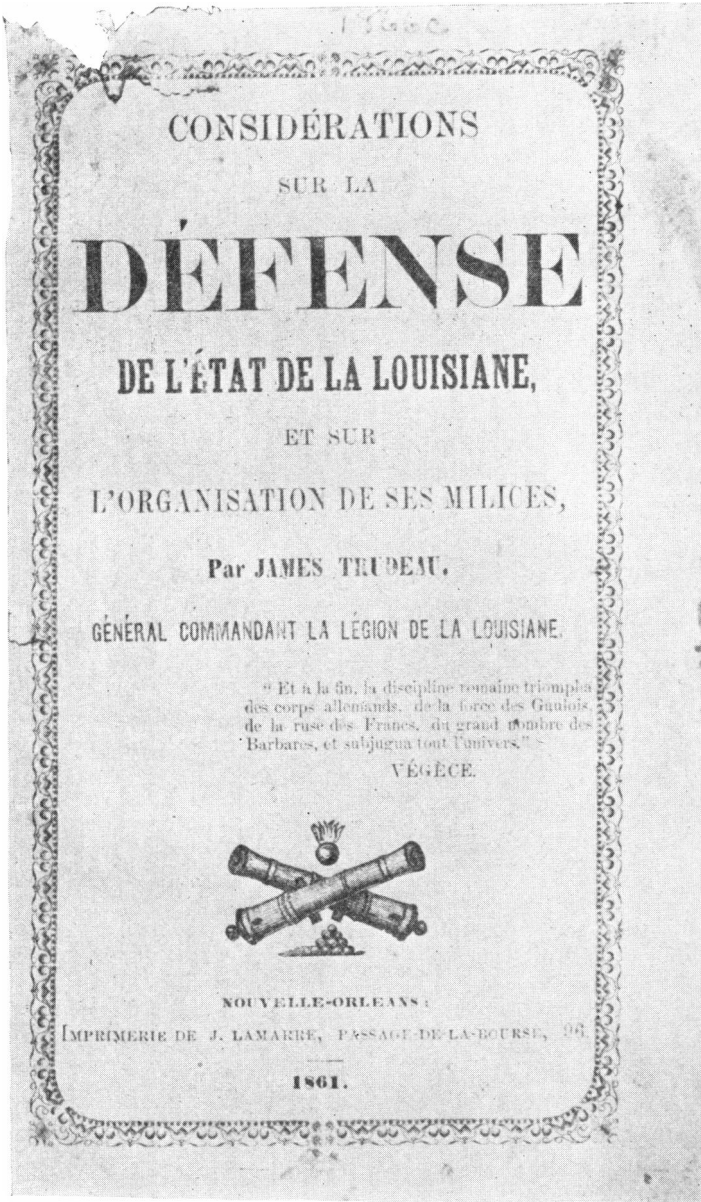


FIG. 7

TITLE-PAGE OF TRUDEAU'S MILITARY WORK

Figure 8 shows the caricature of John Wakefield Francis (1789-1861). It is not inscribed, but is evidently the work of Trudeau. Miss Sayre suggested "Dr. Francis" as the subject—her memory is remarkably good—and the clothes seem too old-fashioned for the son, Dr. Samuel Ward Francis (1835-86). Unfortunately, we cannot find a portrait of the latter. We have a portrait of John W. Francis, Jr. (1832-55), but the caricature is certainly of an older man than he lived to be. At the Academy we have two good painted portraits, and several engraved ones, of Dr. John W. Francis. None show him wearing spectacles, but in one of our paintings he is holding a pair in his hand. Dr. Francis graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1811, was a founder of the Academy, its vice president in 1847, and its president in 1848 and again in 1855. After graduation Francis became a partner of his teacher, David Hosack (1769-1835), and shortly afterwards was made Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Materia Medica at the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The caricature of Willard Parker (1800-84) (figure 9) has suffered a little, as the tip of the nose has been broken off, but it could be restored easily. He was born at Hillsborough, New Hampshire. The statuette is inscribed "Trudeau, 1848." Parker was given the degree of M.D. by Harvard in 1830, and by the Berkshire Medical Institution in 1831. He was Professor of Surgery at Cincinnati, and at several medical schools in New York, before being appointed to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University (1839-69). He was president of the New York Academy of Medicine in 1856.

The caricature of Dr. Lewis Albert Sayre (figure 11) is the only one which was originally black. It is marked "Jas Trudeau 184[8?]." The bas-relief in bronze (figure 10) is inscribed "LVDOVIC. A. SAYRE. MEDICUS. NOV. EBORAC. J. TRUDEAU. 1849." Dr. Sayre graduated A.B. from Transylvania University, Kentucky, in 1839. He was an organizer of Bellevue Hospital Medical College, and was given the chair of orthopedic surgery, the first in the United States. He was a pioneer in several branches of



FIG. 8
John Wakefield Francis
Plaster statuette by Trudeau



FIG. 9
Willard Parker
Plaster statuette by Trudeau



FIG. 10
Lewis Albert Sayre
Bronze bas-relief by Trudeau



FIG. 11
Lewis Albert Sayre
Plaster statuette by Trudeau

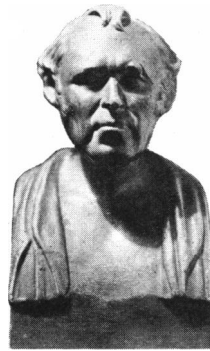


FIG. 12
Dr. Alban (?) Goldsmith (né Smith)
Small plaster bust by Trudeau

orthopedic surgery, especially in the treatment of hip disease and clubfoot, so that he was invited to lecture abroad in several different countries.

There is one fact about the life of Dr. Sayre which is probably not widely known. He was born at Bottle Hill, now Madison, Morris County, New Jersey, in 1820, and in 1824 the Marquis de La Fayette visited this country. On his way through Bottle Hill to Morristown he was received under a triumphal arch, and Lewis Sayre, a little boy of four recited a poem of three verses composed by John T. Derthick, the principal of the Academy where Sayre went to school.* Miss Sayre possesses a ribbon badge (worn probably on that day), a photograph of which she kindly gave to the New York Academy of Medicine. Above Gen. La Fayette's picture is printed "Welcome to the land of Liberty," and below it three verses, the first of which runs:

Hail, patriot, statesman, hero, sage!
 Hail, freedom's friend! hail, Gallia's son—
 Whose laurels greener grow in age,
 Plucked by the side of *Washington!*
 Hail, champion in a holy cause,
 When hostile bands our shores beset;
 Whose valor bade th' oppressor pause—
 Hail, hoary warrior—*La Fayette!*

Miss Sayre was inclined to the opinion that the bust of which figure 12 is a reproduction was of Dr. Middleton Goldsmith (1818-87), as her father corresponded with him after he went to Vermont in 1844 and became Professor of Surgery in the Castleton Medical School. The bust is inscribed "Jas Trudeau 1848," that is, four years after Middleton Goldsmith left New York. Besides, the portrait is that of a man much over thirty. The bust shows some family resemblance to an engraving of Middleton Goldsmith, and might very well be of the father, Dr. Alban Goldsmith (*né* Smith) (1794-1861), who, at the time, would have been about fifty-four years old. Dr. Alban Goldsmith was born

* "Biographical Sketch of Dr. Lewis A. Sayre," reprinted in 1893 from *Contemporary American Biography*, New York, Atlantic Publishing and Engraving Co.



FIG. 13
Dr. Eugene Ramsay Peugnet (?)
Plaster statuette by Trudeau



FIG. 14
Dr. Henry Feltus Quakenbos
Plaster statuette by Trudeau



FIG. 15
Dr. J. B. Pigné (or Pigné-Dupuytren)
Bronze bas-relief by Trudeau

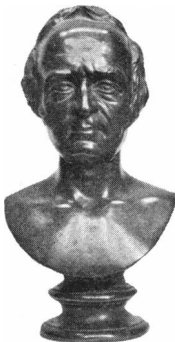


FIG. 16
Bronze Bust of
an Unknown by Trudeau



FIG. 17
Dr. Edward H. Dixon
Plaster statuette by Trudeau

at Danville, Kentucky, was associated with the great Ephraim McDowell, and was Professor of Surgery at the University of Ohio, Cincinnati (1833-37) then he became Professor of Surgery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, for two sessions, and was succeeded by Willard Parker. James Trudeau must certainly have known the Goldsmiths, as they have a common friend in Audubon. *The Medical Register of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut*, New York, 1888, XXVI, 253, in a notice of Middleton Goldsmith's death, says: "The Goldsmiths were great naturalists, and Middleton assisted the great Audubon in the dissection and classification of some of the birds of America." We have no picture of Dr. Alban Goldsmith for comparison.

Miss Sayre could not be certain, but thought that the caricature (figure 13) was of a doctor whose name was pronounced something like "Peugnet." Dr. Samuel W. Lambert, who has shown a great interest in these statuettes, suggested that the caricature might represent Dr. Eugene Peugnet as he, like some of the others who were caricatured, was a member of the New York Pathological Society (see its *Transactions*, New York, 1876, I, xxv-lii). But no picture of Dr. Peugnet could we find in the Academy. It seemed well worth while to try the *New York City Telephone Directory*, and Mr. Ramsay Peugnet replied to a query that he was a son of Dr. Peugnet, and sent us photographs to compare with the caricature. There can be little doubt that the subject of the caricature is Dr. Eugene Ramsay Peugnet (1837-79). The figure is inscribed "Trudeau," but we cannot make out the subject of the little medallion on the base. Peugnet was born in New York,* was a student of Dr. Willard Parker, and "graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1858, his thesis being upon the anatomy of the femoro-tibial articulation." This latter statement is of some interest to us as the caricature shows he had a good grasp of the knee joint,

* *Medical Register of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut . . . 1880*, New York, 1880, XVIII, 239-40.

for he is holding the knee of an amputated lower extremity in his right hand. Peugnet served in the Civil War as surgeon with the Seventy-first Regiment, New York, and was taken prisoner at the battle of Bull Run. He practiced at Fordham except for a short time in New York City. In 1879, while he was walking beside the Harlem Railroad near West Mount Vernon, he was struck by an engine and died shortly afterwards. He was recognized as a good surgeon. In 1874 he published *The Nature of Gunshot Wounds of the Abdomen, and Their Treatment: Based on a Review of the Case of the Late James Fisk, Jr. in Its Medico-Legal Aspects*, a book of ninety pages about a celebrated murder. This and another paper "Medico-Legal Toxicology" (1873) were read before the Medico-Legal Society of New York. Another paper, read before the Yonkers Medical Association in 1878, "Clinical Notes in Obstetrics and Gynaecology" (reprinted in thirty-four pages from the *Ohio Med. and Surg. Jour.*), shows that he was a careful recorder and a well-educated man.

It has been rather difficult, owing to likeness of names, to distinguish "Peugnet" from "J. B. Pigné Medicus, J. Trudeau, 1849," the subject of the bronze medallion (figure 15). Mr. Frank Place, Senior Reference Librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine, found an article in the *New York Journal of Medicine*, 1848, new series, I, 307-15, "On the Anatomical and Physiological History of Those Affections Which Are Called Inflammatory," written by "J. B. Pigné, Late Curator of the Dupuytren Museum, Ex-Vice-President of the Anatomical Society, Professor of Pathological Anatomy, etc. etc." We thought we were certainly on the right track when we discovered that there was a footnote: "For a translation of the following communication from Prof. Pigné, now a resident in this country, and at present in Louisiana, we are indebted to L. A. Sayre, M.D., Prosector to the Professor of Surgery in the College of Physicians of this city.—Ed. New York Jour. of Med."

For a time we lost him in Louisiana as the southern medical journals seemed to make no mention of him. For-

tunately, an Honorary Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, Dr. Rudolph Matas, who lives at New Orleans, when shown the statuettes here on one of his trips North, promised to bear the name "Pigné" in mind. He was as good as his word, and wrote in 1933 that he had come across the name "Pigné-Dupuytren" in Henry Harris' *California's Medical Story* . . ., San Francisco, 1932. Little had we dreamt that our Pigné had gone to California. One book led to another, and now it is possible to tell a few events of his life.

J. B. Pigné was apparently born at Limoges about 1806, and, as a boy, went to Paris, and later studied under his famous uncle Baron Dupuytren. No Paris thesis can be found under his name. He is said to have received a degree from Heidelberg. The catalogue of the New York Academy of Medicine shows that between 1830 (?) and 1838 he translated several German books into French, and published a paper or so of his own. We find that in 1843 Pigné was treasurer of the Société Anatomique de Paris, also an editor of its *Bulletin*; and in 1844 he was "Conservateur-adjoint du Musée Dupuytren." He probably worked at Edinburgh for a time as it is said he had an "R.C.S." from there in 1848,* the year before Trudeau executed the medalion of him at New York.

Pigné came over to New York to practice medicine, but apparently left soon after for New Orleans. Being unsuccessful there he returned to New York, and meeting his schoolmate Delmonico, he was persuaded by him to go out to California and look after the latter's gold interests there, in addition to establishing himself in practice. He reached California, via Cape Horn, accompanied by the bed that he had brought from France! In California he was always known as Pigné-Dupuytren. We must not be harsh, but perhaps he thought that the latter name would help him! He settled in San Francisco, built up an extensive practice, and backed financially the Raousset-Boulbon colonization

* *Medical and Surgical Directory of the United States*, New York, 1886, p. 166.

expeditions to Arizona and Mexico. Pigné-Dupuytren married in San Francisco, later settled in Los Angeles in 1874, and died in San Diego in 1886. He wrote two short articles in the *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, Vol. I, 1858, and Vol. XXII, 1879-80.

Miss Sayre was almost certain that the cupid figure (figure 14) was a caricature of a Dr. Quackenbos or Quack-enbush. It is inscribed "Trudeau, 1848." This is certainly one of the most amusing of the plaster statuettes. Again we can find no portrait for comparison, but Dr. Henry Feltus Quackenbos (1819-88) is in all probability the doctor in question. The son of Dr. Nicolas I. Quackenbos (d. 1847) who had graduated from Columbia University in 1800, he was born in New York and graduated M.D. in 1841 from the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Then he went to study abroad, and served for a time as an army surgeon in Algiers, and returned in 1845 and assisted Dr. Cheesman. Dr. Quackenbos, a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine:

had a large practice among the dramatic profession, chief among whom as a personal friend he claimed Edwin Forrest, the distinguished tragedian, and was much admired for his wit and powers of repartee by John Brougham and James T. Brady. . . . The last prescription he wrote was for the veteran actor Davidge. He was an exceedingly agreeable companion. . . . He was a great lover of art, and took especial pride in the exhibition of two wonderful statuettes of Demosthenes and Caesar that he obtained at Pompeii. He also possessed a number of original drawings of Gustave Doré, of whom he was a great admirer.*

Surely, knowing these qualities, James Trudeau was justified in giving Dr. Quackenbos wings, and such a light and airy grace. At least we like to think it is Henry Feltus Quackenbos!

Figure 16 is of a small bronze bust now at Saranac Lake. The subject of it is unknown.

Dr. Edward H. Dixon (1808-80) familiarly known as "Scalpel Dixon" (figure 17) must have been an interesting

* *Medical Register of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut*, New York, 1889, XXVII, 281-82.

character. He studied under Valentine Mott and states, "In the year 1830 I was sent forth from that ark of safety, the old Duane Street College"*** [Rutgers Medical Faculty of Geneva College, New York]. He practiced in New York, is said to have been quite an able urological surgeon, and invented several instruments. He had a private hospital and gave advice by letter for five dollars. He grew very fond of writing and poking fun at the polypharmacy and other foibles of the medical profession, and of trying to "expose quackery." At the same time he attempted to attract patients. Under the nom de plume of "Scalpel, M.D." he wrote *The Terrible Mysteries of the Ku Klux Klan* (1868). The Academy has no copy of this book. From 1849 to 1860 [twelve volumes] he edited, and we presume wrote nearly all the articles for *The Scalpel: A Journal of Health Adapted to Popular and Professional Reading, and the Exposure of Quackery*. The motto of the journal was "Who Shall Guard the Shepherds? (Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?)" Dixon wrote well, and one of the best things in the whole series is his review and criticism of Oliver Wendell Holmes' *Autocrat at the Breakfast-Table*.†

There can be no doubt that the editor delighted to dip his pen into a biting acid. The New York Academy of Medicine is severely criticized; many jokes are cracked at its expense. The most amusing article written about the Academy is called "The Third Anniversary Oration for the New York Academy of Medicine, which was not delivered before that Remarkable Body, but ought to have been, at their Annual Meeting, held in the Chapel of the University, November 14th, 1849, by the Physician who was not elected for that occasion. (Published without the knowledge or consent of the Academy)." A footnote adds, "To 'the Fellows' of the New York Academy of Medicine, who advertise themselves alphabetically as the 'Medical Profession Proper', this very inadequate appreciation of their worth,

*** Kelly, H. A. and W. L. Burrage, *Dictionary of American Medical Biography*, New York and London, 1928, pp. 329-30.

† *Scalpel*, New York, 1849-50, II, 373-86.

and imperfect exhibition of their merits, is gratuitously prescribed by the author.”* The running title in the magazine states that the address was delivered “By the Medical Heretic.” The address was reprinted in pamphlet form, a copy of which is in the Academy. It is wholesome occasionally to hear criticism of ourselves, but we can imagine the feelings of the Academicians of those days as some of the achievements of their society were described: “Many cases of Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Drunkenness and even Fever, would have been entirely omitted from the Cholera reports, but for us,” and again: “But having taken our position, we say, with one of our Public Men, on a similar occasion, ‘The Academy—right or wrong—The Academy!’” Some of the “hits” are as clever as those of “Peter Porcupine” [William Cobbett] in his magazine *The Rush-Light* (of which the Academy of Medicine has the first six of the complete set of seven numbers published in 1800) in which Benjamin Rush receives hard knocks. Some of the other articles which are about the Academy or refer to it, are: “New York Medical Cliques and Cliniques,” “Badger-Hunting in the Academy,” “The Academy and their List of Prices; Tapping and Healing, 50 cts.; Boiled Mutton and Turnips, 1s 6d,” “Deputation of the Academy,” “The North-West Passage to Medical Ethics, discovered by the Academy,” “The poodle in Paris,” “Shocking Outrage on Professional Humanity,” “A Popular Drama. A hint to the Academy of Medicine and Mr. Burton,” “Academic Gyration; Medical Dog-Shaving. A Philanthropic Proposition by the Editor,” and “The Medical Crows; their Prolific Nature; the Great Hatching Place. . . .”

In the statuette in caricature is seen the *Scalpel* magazine, standing on end, which Dixon grasps with a large clawlike left hand. On the back of this Trudeau inscribed “Mai 1858,” and, above the date, a rough sketch of Dixon riding a hobby horse. We are thankful today that both Edward H. Dixon and James de Berty Trudeau rode their hobbies so hard, for these have provided us with much amusement.

* *Scalpel*, New York, 1849-50, II, 373-86.